Claims

Having thus described our invention, what we claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:

1. A method of interconnecting a first server computer (112) of a service requestor (1) and a second server computer (122) of a service provider (2), each of said first server computer (112) and said second server computer (122) being connected to at least one client computer (111, 121);

said first server computer (112) running a first workflow management system application (3), and said second server computer (122) running a second workflow management system application (4);

said method comprising providing a first and a second connector application (5a, 6a) for permitting said first server computer (112) access to a copy of said first connector application (5a) and for permitting said second server computer (122) access to a copy of said second connector application (6a);

wherein said copies of said first and said second connector application (5a, 6a) each comprises a connection agreement (8, 12) for a first work task (7) of a first workflow instance (18) encompassed by said first workflow management system application (3);

which copy of said first connector application (5a) further comprises a first mapping table (9) including a

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24 first service terminology (9a) and a common terminology

25 (9b, 13b), and which copy of said second connector

26 application (6a) further comprises a second mapping

27 table (13) including a second service terminology (13a)

28 and said common terminology (9b, 13b);

29 said first work task (7) being transposed by said first

30 mapping table (9) from said first service terminology

31 (9a) into an input data set (ip1, ip2) in said common

32 terminology (9b, 13b);

33 said input data set (ip1, ip2) being marshalled to said

34 second server computer (122) over a common connection

35 (17), and said marshalled input data set (ip1, ip2) being

36 transposed to a second work task (15) by said second

37 mapping table (13) from said common terminology (9b, 13b)

38 into said second service terminology (4a), and said

39 second work task (15) being processed by said second

40 workflow management system application (4).

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said processed second

2 work task (15) generates a result (wo1, wo2), said result

3 (wo1, wo2) being transposed by said second mapping table

4 (13) from said second service terminology (13a) into an

5 output data set (op1, op2) in said common terminology

6 (9b, 13b), said mapped output data set (op1, op2) being

7 marshalled to said first server computer (112) over said

8 common connection (17), and said marshalled output data

9 being transposed by said first mapping table (9) from

10 said common terminology (9b, 13b) into said first service

11 terminology (9a).

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said copy of said first connector application (5a) resides in a first access device (5) of said service requestor (1); said first access device (5) comprising a first access computer including said first connector application (5a).

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said copy of said second connector application (6a) resides in a second access device (6) of said service provider (2); said second access device (6) comprising a second access computer including said second connector application (6a).

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said copy of the first connector application (5a) resides in said first server computer (112) of said service requestor (1).

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said copy of the second connector application (6a) resides in said second server computer (122) of said service provider (2).

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said copy of said first connector application (5a) resides in said first client computer (111).

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said copy of said second connector application (6a) resides in said second client computer (121).

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said first workflow management system application (3) is essentially the same

3      as said second workflow management system application

4      (4).

1      10. A computer network comprising a first server

2      computer (112) of a service requestor (1) and a second

3      server computer (122) of a service provider (2), each of

4      said first server computer (112) and said second server

5      computer (122) being connected to at least one client

6      computer (111, 121);

7      said first server computer (112) running a first workflow

8      management system application (3), and said second server

9      computer (122) running a second workflow management

10     system application (4);

11     said first and second server computer (112, 122) being

12     interconnected by means of a first and a second connector

13     application (5a, 6a) arranged in such a manner that said

14     first server computer (112) having access to a copy of

15     said first connector application (5a) and said second

16     server computer (122) having access to a copy of said

17     second connector application (6a);

18     wherein said first and said second connector application

19     (5a, 6a) each comprise a connection agreement (8, 12) for

20     a first work task (7) of a first workflow instance (18)

21     encompassed by said first workflow management system

22     application (3);

23     which copy of said first connector application (5a)

24     further comprises a first mapping table (9) including a

25     first service terminology (9a) and a common terminology

26    (9b, 13b), and which copy of said second connector

27    application (6a) further comprises a second mapping table

28    (13) including a second service terminology (13a) and

29    said common terminology (13b);


30    said first work task (7) being transposed by said first

31    mapping table (9) from said first service terminology

32    (9a) into an input data set (ip1, ip2) in said common

33    terminology (9b, 13b);


34    said input data set (ip1, ip2) being marshalled to said

35    second server computer (122) over a common connection

36    (17), and said marshalled input data set (ip1, ip2) being

37    transposed to a second work task (15) by said second

38    mapping table (13) from said common terminology (9b, 13b)

39    into said second service terminology (13a), and said

40    second work task (15) being processed by said second

41    workflow management system application (4).


1    11.   The network of claim 10 wherein said processed

2    second work task (15) generates a result (wo1, wo2), said

3    result (wo1, wo2) being transposed by said second mapping

4    table (13) from said second service terminology (13a)

5    into an output data (op1, op2) in said common terminology

6    (9b, 13b), said mapped output data set (op1, op2) being

7    marshalled to said first server computer (112) over said

8    common connection (17), and said marshalled output data

9    being transposed by said first mapping table (9) from

10    said common terminology (9b, 13b) into said first service

11    terminology (2a).

12. The network of claim 10 wherein said copy of said
first connector application (5a) resides in a first
access device (5) of said service requestor (1), which
first access device (5) comprises a first access computer
including said first connector application (5a).

13. The network of claim 10 wherein said copy of said
second connector application (6a) resides in a second
access device (6) of said service provider (2), which
second access device (6) comprises a second access
computer including said second connector application
(6a).

14. The network of claim 10 wherein said copy of the
first connector application (5a) resides in said first
server computer (112) of said service requestor (1).

15. The network of claim 10 wherein said copy of the
second connector application (6a) resides in the second
server computer (122) of said service provider (2).

16. The network of claim 10 wherein said copy of said
first connector application (5a) resides in said first
client computer (111).

17. The network of claim 10 wherein said copy of said
second connector application (6a) resides in said second
client computer (121).

18. The network of claim 10 wherein said first workflow
management system application (3) is essentially the same

3      as said second workflow management system application

4      (4).